

MINUTES OF THE
CAPE CORAL
CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY GOVERNING BOARD
REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, April 7, 2015
City Council Chambers
9:00 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER: The Cape Coral Charter School Authority Governing Board of Lee County, Florida, met on April 7, 2015, at City Council Chambers a Regular Governing Board Meeting. Co-Chair Donaldson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

INVOCATION: Co-Chair Donaldson

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:
All in attendance

ROLL CALL: Anderson, Boyer, Donaldson, Keesler, Nesta, Teblum, Zivkovic
• Member Jackson, excused
• Change to Roll Call: Member Zivcovic is the voting member taking Member Stout's place

ALSO PRESENT: Bill Buztrey, Assistant City Attorney
Nelson Stephenson, Superintendent, Cape Coral Charter School Authority
Kevin Beckman, Principal, Oasis Charter Middle School
Amanda Sanford, Interim-Assistant Principal, Oasis Charter High School
Steve Hook, Principal, Oasis Charter Elementary School
Danielle Jensen, Director of Procurement and Food Services, Cape Coral Charter School Authority
Mary Anne Moniz, Business Manager, Cape Coral Charter School Authority
John Lawrence, Cape Coral Charter Schools Bookkeeper
Marilyn Stout, Community Member
Sarona Weyant, Parent, Christa McAuliffe Charter Elementary School

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Governing Board Meeting of March 9, 2015 was made by member Boyer and seconded by member Teblum.

Board vote: Anderson, Boyer, Donaldson, Nesta, Teblum, Zivcovic

All “Ayes,” motion carries.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA REGULAR MEETING:

Co-Chair Donaldson added the approval of the OHS Drill Team Competition to the agenda under “New Business”, letter “D”. The competition will be held April 10-11, 2015 in Lakeland, Florida.

Motion was made by member Teblum and seconded by member Boyer to approve the agenda.

Board vote: Anderson, Boyer, Donaldson, Nesta, Teblum, Zivcovic

All “Ayes,” motion carries.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

Mr. Stephenson announced that we have secured a new principal for Oasis High School. Mrs. Shannon Treece will start on July 1, 2015. She was 1 of 5 selected for an interview and was one of 17 applicants. She was vetted by all of our administrators and met with many of our Governing Board members. She is working on travel arrangements for her return at the end of this month which will allow us to spend more time with her. A meet and greet will be announced.

Mr. Stephenson stated that we have obtained a hydroponic gardening system at Christa McAuliffe Elementary. Mr. Stephenson thanked Daryl Teblum and the maintenance crew for their help in acquiring and getting it to CME. This will encourage vertical alignment of curriculum between our schools. The chef at Oasis High School will be starting a garden this summer and looks to infuse the garden items into her cooking.

Mr. Stephenson stated that he wants to make sure we do our best job at communicating. The second edition of the electronic magazine is due out in early May. It will be around 40 pages and contain lots of information about our school system and what’s happening at each of our schools.

Mr. Stephenson stated that he is talking to vendors about an app for our school system similar to what the city is looking at. It would provide push notifications and a direct link to our website. Cost will be very low.

Mr. Stephenson stated that we are very close to getting a practice field. At this point we will have traditional grass without irrigation. With this addition we will immediately be able to provide extra parking to our high school students. Mr. Stephenson will provide more details at the next Governing Board meeting.

Mr. Stephenson thanked Mr. Nesta for his assistance in securing the city to help with clearing the field.

Mr. Stephenson stated that he recently spent three days in Tallahassee where he was able to meet individually with Representative Eagle, Representative Fitzenhagen and Senator Benacquisto as well as a brief introduction to Governor Scott.

Mr. Stephenson had a positive meeting with Senator Benacquisto. She is sponsoring HB 7037 that in part addresses capital. This bill would allow 40% per pupil as capital to us from Lee County School District.

Mr. Stephenson stated that HB 1552 will allow a \$10.00 per pupil expenditure for those schools whose students wear uniforms. This bill will also allow charter schools to build their own professional learning program.

Mr. Stephenson announced that Representative Eagle will be coming by some of our schools. He will do a meet and greet and speak with some of our students.

Mr. Stephenson stated that there is a team of teachers heading over to West Palm Beach at the end of this month for accreditation training. Some are different staff than those who went last time.

Mr. Stephenson stated that the rally is coming up. Mr. Hook will give more information during his school update.

Mr. Stephenson stated the new school buses have arrived. He will send out a press release and would like to have a ceremony. The new buses are as close to 0% emissions as you can get. They use the clean diesel delivery system.

Mr. Stephenson thanked Member Nesta for including the charter system in the request for bus stop lighting.

Mr. Stephenson stated that he is participating in monthly City Safety Group meetings. This is a great opportunity to meet with city staff once a month and talk about our safety issues and concerns. Mr. Stephenson thanks the city for this opportunity.

CHAIRMAN REPORT:

Co-Chair Donaldson stated that the Chairman Report will be postponed until Chair Jackson returns.

FOUNDATION REPORT:

Co-Chair Donaldson stated that the Foundation Report will be postponed unless anyone has information to share.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Marilyn Stout congratulated Member Boyer on her reappointment and Member Zivcovic on his appointment to the Governing Board. Ms. Stout wanted to share a little bit about what's going on in Tallahassee:

- Ms. Stout stated that the bill pertaining to the \$10.00 per child is for those schools that require uniforms in kindergarten thru 8th. This bill passed the house 102 to 8. There is not a Senate Bill for this yet.
- The House and the Senate have similar bills that allow principals more control over their budget and hiring.
- The House passed a bill to lower the fines if you violate class size.
- HB 7037 would give charter schools 40% of what they would receive if they were a district school. If the state does not approve the funds, then it has to come out of the 1.5 mills that the school district presently receives.

Ms. Stout will continue her interest in the charter school system.

Serona Weyant would like to know if the ½ days will be continued or be limited for next year. Ms. Weyant would like to know if we will be adding on to Christa McAuliffe Elementary. There is value in adding on to Christa McAuliffe; it could become a K-8th grade school which would eliminate the need to purchase more property to build another middle school. Ms. Weyent feels like Christa McAuliffe is a stepchild and would love to have a middle school there to continue the education. She feels like Ms. Collins does a wonderful job.

Discussion is held.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

STAFF AND BOARD COMMENT:

Business Manager

Mary Anne Moniz stated that the new buses arrived over spring vacation and they are ready to go with the exception of insurance. We are finalizing the insurance with Mr. Quigley from Risk Management.

Mrs. Moniz stated that she has been working on budgets for the upcoming school year. There are a couple of significant changes that will impact the upcoming budgets:

- There is an approximate 2% increase to FRS.
- We have approximately 60 employees who are now eligible for health care.
- Worker's Compensation rates have once again increased.

Mrs. Moniz stated that she has been working with Danielle Jensen to obtain quotes on some upcoming items such as the A/C units at Christa McAuliffe.

Mrs. Moniz stated that in the last month and a half 3 custodians have left our system. Two of the three custodial employees were hired by Lee County. Lee County offers benefits and their pay is a little higher. Mrs. Moniz will take a closer look and see if there is some type of resolution.

Mrs. Moniz stated that the "A money" (state recognition money) was released to staff in their last paycheck. Total was just short of \$300,000.00.

Discussion is held.

Director of Procurement and Food Services

Danielle Jensen states that as a department, through February, food service has a favorable YTD profit margin of \$91K. Revenues are down from last year but are offset by a reduction in our expenses.

Ms. Jensen stated that once the state has finalized their form we will request a whole grain exemption. Participation in meals is down 12%. Our biggest concern is the whole grain pasta. This will allow us some flexibility to make sure we can fulfill our menu requirements.

Ms. Jensen stated that last month Luz Llerena was recognized as a nominee for the "What Works" contest that the state sponsored for their annual promotion.

Ms. Jensen stated that she met with our landscaper to work on the scope of helping us figure out our grassy play area that is often mud where students play sports at Christa. We are working on various quotes for next year's budget.

Discussion is held.

Christa McAuliffe Charter Elementary School

Steven Hook stated that they are preparing for FSA testing on April 13rd and 14th, 2015.

Mr. Hook stated that Christa McAuliffe has raised over \$9000.00 in raffle tickets for the rally.

Mr. Hook states that they are very excited about the hydroponic system and wanted to thank Mr. Teblum for his help in that.

Oasis Charter Elementary School (OES)

Steven Hook states that they are petitioning with the district to expand our enrollment by 15% which will take us from 800 to 920 students. A second amendment to the charter contract has been submitted and will go before the Lee County School Board. Upon their approval the amendment will be brought to Mr. Stephenson for his approval.

Discussion is held.

Mr. Hook states that they have an Odyssey of the Mind team going to state competition and 5th grade is going to the marine lab.

Mr. Hook congratulated Lisa Haba for being selected as the Oasis Elementary Lighthouse Award Winner.

Mr. Hook gave thanks to Chris Porter and others for stepping up in the time of need to complete the Lighthouse Awards.

Mr. Hook reminds us that it is rally time and he has tickets for sale. This year's rally will be held April 25th at The German American Club from 12:00-6:00 PM.

Oasis Charter Middle School (OMS)

Kevin Beckman states that the STEM Tour Team went to competition and placed very high.

Mr. Beckman states their drama club will present "Doctor Dolittle" at the Culture Park Theatre on April 25th and 26th.

Mr. Beckman recognized Shane Durepo for placing 4th in the State Science Fair competition.

Mr. Beckman also recognized Zach Kashman, who is a member of the TSA group, for placing 1st in the speech division.

Mr. Beckman recognized Keri Rieder as the Lighthouse Award winner for Oasis Middle School.

Mr. Beckman states that his testing starts next week and will last a little over 2 weeks. This also includes the Algebra and Civics exams.

Oasis Charter High School (OHS)

Interim-Assistant Principal Amanda Sanford stated that AICE testing started today. Spanish started this morning and we go into French later this week. FSA testing will start next week and be on and off for the next few weeks.

Interim-Assistant Principal Amanda Sanford stated that this was the first year that our National Spanish Examination was given. It will tell students how they compare with other students around the nation.

Interim-Assistant Principal Amanda Sanford stated that an Oasis High student applied for the American Association of Spanish and Portuguese scholarship. That student is one of only 48 students in the United States to receive the \$1000.00 scholarship.

Interim-Assistant Principal Amanda Sanford stated that several students from French, Spanish and American Sign Language participated in the International Fair. OHS students received 15 awards at the fair and 1 student will have his poster hung in the Lee County Schools Public School System.

Interim-Assistant Principal Amanda Sanford recognized Elodie Cotton as the Lighthouse Award winner for Oasis High School

Interim-Assistant Principal Amanda Sanford stated that tennis, softball and baseball are all doing well. She also stated that track & field teams have broken records in every match they've had this year.

Interim-Assistant Principal Amanda Sanford updated us on Oasis High clubs:

- JROTC goes to their district competition on April 23rd followed with the state tournament on April 25th.
- Four of our MUN students took 3rd place at the Florida State Euro Challenge Competition. They were acknowledged by the judges for their superior presentation and knowledge of what they were talking about.
- Thirteen students competed in the State Thespian Festival; one received superior, several received excellent and one received a good rating.

Discussion is held.

Miscellaneous Business & Board Comments

Member Zivcovic thanks Marilyn Stout for her all her knowledge and service to the board over the last 9 years and hopes she continues to contribute.

Member Zivcovic personally congratulated the Drepo and Kashman families on their children's successes. You can see what happens when you have parent involvement and nurturing.

Member Zivcovic stated that the Superintendent's evaluation tool will get us through June. Maybe the board can create the evaluation tool for the following year. That will give them a year to work on it.

Member Anderson thanked everyone for the phenomenal job they do, it is great to hear so many positive things.

Member Anderson thanked Amanda Sanford for stepping into the Principal role at OHS.

Member Anderson states that she is on the email distribution list for the Florida Charter School Alliance. They provide continual updates for the bills that are in progress. Member Anderson will provide their email address to Mrs. Arthur who will share with the rest of the board.

Member Nesta welcomed Mr. Zivcovic to the board and Ms. Boyer for returning to the board.

Member Nesta thanked Marilyn Stout for her many years of dedication to the school board.

Member Nesta asked how a replacement is found for Mr. Zivcovic now that he is no longer the parent representative for Oasis Middle School.

Discussion is held.

Member Nesta states that both the House and Senate have websites that give updates for legislative bills. He also states that the Senate website has a bill tracker.

Member Teblum thanked Ms. Stout for her years of service.

Member Teblum feels that we don't thank our Principals and Superintendent enough.

Member Keesler thanked Superintendent Stephenson for being out in the community

Member Boyer thanked Ms. Stout for all of her efforts and for welcoming her to the board in 2012.

Member Boyer states that she was privileged to be a part of the Lighthouse Awards classroom observations at Oasis Elementary School and it was probably one of the most difficult things she has ever done.

Member Boyer asked Mr. Nesta if he could give them a sample of the goals and objectives used for the City Manager's evaluation.

Discussion is held.

Member Anderson states that in the past the OHS parent replacement for Governing Board was brought up at the SAC meeting, if it is still active and there are participants. This would meet the spirit of the PTO requirement.

Member Anderson thanked Mr. Nesta for sharing the legislature website information. She also states that the Florida Charter School Alliance website also provides contact information and is a convenient tool.

Co-Chair Donaldson agrees with comments from the other Governing Board members.

Co-Chair Donaldson thanked everyone for stepping up to the plate.

Co-Chair Donaldson stated that she appreciates Superintendent Stephenson's time.

Co-Chair Donaldson thanked Ms. Stout for her service.

Co-Chair Donaldson stated that the Lighthouse Awards will be held May 1, 2015.

Co-Chair Donaldson stated that the Rally will be held April 25, 2015.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of OMS Explorers Club Out-of-Country Field Trip to China July 5th-18th, 2015 – Kevin Beckman

Discussion is held.

Motion was made by member Teblum and seconded by member Anderson to approve the OMS Explorers Club Out-of-Country Field Trip to China July 5th-18th, 2015.

Board vote: Anderson, Boyer, Donaldson, Nesta, Teblum, Zivcovic

All “Ayes,” motion carries.

B. Approval of Superintendent Evaluation Document - Nelson Stephenson

Chair Jackson will not be attending today.

Discussion is held.

Motion was made by member Teblum and seconded by member Boyer to approve the Superintendent Evaluation Document

Board vote: Anderson, Boyer, Donaldson, Nesta, Teblum, Zivcovic

All “Ayes,” motion carries.

C. Approval of 2015-2016 Cape Coral School Authority Calendar – Nelson Stephenson

Discussion is held.

Motion was made by member Teblum and seconded by member Zivcovic to approve the 2015-2016 Cape Coral School Authority Calendar,

Board vote: Anderson, Boyer, Donaldson, Nesta, Teblum, Zivcovic

All “Ayes,” motion carries.

D. Approval of the Out-of-County OHS Drill Team Competition April 10-11, 2015 in Lakeland, Florida.

Discussion is held.

Motion was made by member Teblum and seconded by member Nesta to approve the out-of-county overnight OHS Drill Team Competition April 10-11, 2015 in Lakeland, Florida.

Board vote: Anderson, Boyer, Donaldson, Nesta, Teblum, Zivcovic

All “Ayes,” motion carries.

Time and Date of Next Meeting

9:00 a.m., May 12, 2015, in Council Chambers.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon Arthur
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Cape Coral Charter School Authority